

## REMARKS

A petition for a two month extension of time has today been filed as a separate paper and a copy is attached hereto.

The restriction requirement and the examiner's remarks in paragraphs 1-5 of the office action are believed to be moot in view of the present cancellation of the non-elected claims.

The examiner will note that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2 and that claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 7.

The rejection of claims 1-9 for obviousness over Mori et al, as set forth in paragraph 7 of the examiner's office action is respectfully traversed. Mori et al disclose a protective film for photo mask comprising a cured product. The protective film as defined by claim 1 differs from that of Mori et al with respect to composition, structure and manner of use. With regard to manner of use note that the protective film of Mori is formed by coating a composition including a curable compound directly onto a photo mask, as described at column 5, lines 29-34. In contradistinction, applicant claims a transfer sheet for transferring a protective film onto a photo mask. In terms of structure, the protective film of Mori et al does not include a pressure sensitive adhesive layer in addition to a "protective layer." The present invention might be viewed as an improvement to an adhesive layer for a protective film whereas Mori et al have no

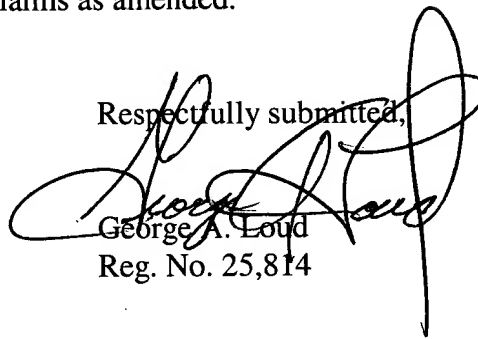
such separate adhesive layer.

Further, with regard to structure, Mori et al describe the prior art at column 1, lines 38-42 in which a “lith film” is provided with a protective film “through an adhesive.” However, that prior art should not be confused with the invention of Mori et al and no information is given as to the nature of the prior art adhesive.

With regard to composition, applicants acknowledge that at column 2, lines 32-44 the references lists materials which might be regarded as both ionizing radiation curable and heat-curable. However, while Mori et al suggest at column 2, lines 43 and 44 that the resins may be used in combinations of two or more, it does not specifically suggest a combination of a heat curable resin with an ionizing radiation curable resin. Further, there is no suggestion of forming a separate “adhesive layer” containing such a combination of resins. Of course, the ratio for the two different resins as defined by claim 2 is further removed from anything suggested by Mori et al.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to George A. Loud, is written over the text "Respectfully submitted," and partially over the name "George A. Loud".

George A. Loud  
Reg. No. 25,814

Dated: June 23, 2003

LORUSSO, LOUD & KELLY  
3137 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22305

(703) 739-9393